

the problem with this is that you have, in both of these cases, both the amendment and the amendment to the amendment, you have taken out any reference to the interim work which while we have an annual session is the absolute important matter that we have to consider if we are going to do our work during the Legislative days. If you're going to restrict a per diem...if you're going to have a per diem then you restrict it only to the Legislative days, you completely discourage people coming down here and working. I feel that if you are going to use a per diem, you should encourage those who are willing to come down here and work with that per diem. In other words, those who will work get paid, those who don't come don't get paid. That's the advantage of a per diem in any Legislature that has ever tried it. In this instance everybody is on the same level whether they work hard in the interim or not. Whether they come during the interim or not. You're going to discourage any interim work. Maybe that's what you want. If that's what you want we should go back to the two house partisan legislature that some have hoped for and have longed for and forget the whole experiment of the Unicameral the way it is now.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, I wish more people maybe would have listened to the point Senator Luedtke was just making. Right now because of, really just a quirk in the language of the Constitution, we can get expense money for work during the interim. You can't get expense money during the session except for one trip up here and one trip back. Now I can't...I have not seen the exact language that Senator Simon's amendment is nor Senator Nichol's but I think we ought to be very very cautious in rewriting this section of the Constitution in five minutes on the Legislative floor because suddenly we may find that we've eliminated expense money that we can get now for interim work. If we limit the per diem and expenses to just the 60 and 90 days, if we limit the expenses to just that, we have completely eliminated the chance of any work during the interim session because it is going to be too burdensome for people from outstate to come to Lincoln. Now, this doesn't concern me because I can walk four or five blocks and it doesn't cost that much but for other people. Particularly, Senator Nichol, who is representing Scottsbluff. If during the interim they do not get, at least, expenses, it's going to make it so that that person is going to find it either financially burdensome to be involved in interim activities or they just simply won't come. So, I think the Speaker is raising a very good caution. I think that Senator Koch had the best scheme in the original bill that came out of the Constitutional Revision Committee. I think that's what we ought to go back to. That's what we ought to put before the voters. That's what we ought to try and explain to them, the case for this change. I think we ought to follow the lead of the Constitutional Revision Committee and not try and rewrite the Constitution on the floor.